

SMALLPOX

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** Smallpox, a serious contagious disease, caused by the variola virus is characterized by both an enanthem with lesions in the mouth and posterior pharynx and an exanthem (rash). The rash occurs 1 to 3 days after the onset of illness with a fever 101 ° F, malaise, headache, backache and sometimes vomiting. The hallmark of classic smallpox is a generalized vesiculopustular rash with lesions found more densely on the face and extremities. All lesions are at a similar stage of development. The rash progresses from macules to papules, to vesicles, to pustules and then to scabs. The cycle takes 2 to 3 weeks.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA: IMMEDIATE reporting by telephone to the Kentucky Department for Public Health**, on a suspected case based on clinical presentation.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION*: (to be conducted in Level C or D laboratories only)**
- Isolation of smallpox (variola) virus from a clinical specimen (Level D laboratory only), **OR**
 - Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) identification of variola DNA in a clinical specimen, **OR**
 - Negative stain electron microscopy (EM) identification of variola virus in a clinical specimen (Level D laboratory or approved Level C laboratory).

*Level D laboratories include the CDC and USAMRIID. Initial confirmation of a smallpox outbreak requires testing in a Level D laboratory. Level C laboratories will assist with testing of clinical specimens following initial confirmation of an outbreak by CDC.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES URGENT NOTIFICATION: REPORT TO THE STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY** upon recognition of a case or suspected case by **telephone**. If after hours call the emergency number of the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning: **1-888-973-7678**.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUESTED:**
Kentucky Reportable Disease Form – EPID 200 (Jan/03)

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH DATA BRANCH: 502-564-3418.
- B. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH: 502-564-3261.

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

1. Chin, James, ed. Smallpox. In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 17th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000: 455-457.
2. CDC website: www.cdc.gov/smallpox